

REMARKS

This responds to the Office Action mailed on August 11, 2006.

Claims 1, 5, 11, 16, 26, 31, 32 and 33 are amended, claims 14, 29 and 44 are canceled, and no claims are added; as a result, claims 1-13, 15-28, and 30-43 are now pending in this application. While Applicant believes that claims 1, 11, 16, 26, 31, 32 and 33 were patentable prior to their amendment in this response, in order to expedite prosecution Applicant has amended these claims according to allowable subject matter indicated by the Examiner. Applicant reserves the right to reintroduce in a continuing application the subject matter of claims 1, 11, 16, 26, 31, 32 and 33 in their form prior to the amendments made in this response.

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 14, 15, 29, 30, 44 and 45 were objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but were indicated to be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

§103 Rejection of the Claims

Claims 1-13, 16-28 and 31-43 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Narasimhaul et al. (U.S. 5,499,298) in view of Colosso (U.S. 6,169,976).

Applicant has amended these claims according to allowable subject matter indicated by the Examiner. Consequently, these claims are now allowable over the cited art and it is respectfully requested this rejection be removed.

Reservation of Rights

Applicant does not agree with one or more comments in the instant Office Action. However, Applicant has limited the discussion of the traversal of the Office Action rejections to such discussion as is necessary to efficiently expedite the prosecution of the abovementioned

application. Applicant reserves the right to further address the comments of the Examiner at a later date if necessary. In the interest of clarity and brevity, Applicant may not have addressed every assertion made in the Office Action. Applicant's silence regarding any such assertion does not constitute any admission or acquiescence. Applicant reserves all rights not exercised in connection with this response, such as the right to challenge or rebut any tacit or explicit characterization of any reference or of any of the present claims, the right to challenge or rebut any asserted factual or legal basis of any of the rejections, the right to swear behind any cited reference such as provided under 37 C.F.R. § 1.131 or otherwise, or the right to assert co-ownership of any cited reference. Applicant does not admit that any of the cited references or any other references of record are relevant to the present claims, or that they constitute prior art. To the extent that any rejection or assertion is based upon the Examiner's personal knowledge, rather than any objective evidence of record as manifested by a cited prior art reference, Applicant timely objects to such reliance on Official Notice, and reserves all rights to request that the Examiner provide a reference or affidavit in support of such assertion, as required by MPEP § 2144.03. Applicant reserves all rights to pursue any cancelled claims in a subsequent patent application claiming the benefit of priority of the present patent application, and to request rejoinder of any withdrawn claim, as required by MPEP § 821.04.

CONCLUSION

Applicant respectfully submits that the claims are in condition for allowance and notification to that effect is earnestly requested. The Examiner is invited to telephone Applicant's attorney 408-278-4045 to facilitate prosecution of this application.

If necessary, please charge any additional fees or credit overpayment to Deposit Account No. 19-0743.

Respectfully submitted,

ROBERT W. FRANS DONK

By his Representatives,

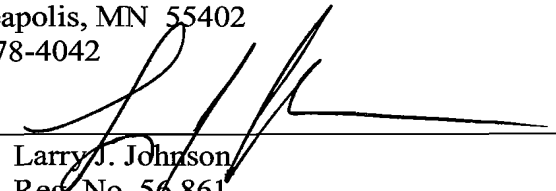
SCHWEGMAN, LUNDBERG, WOESSNER & KLUTH, P.A.

P.O. Box 2938

Minneapolis, MN 55402

408-278-4042

Date 2/7/2007

By 
Larry J. Johnson
Reg. No. 56,861

CERTIFICATE UNDER 37 CFR § 1.8: The undersigned hereby certifies that this correspondence is being filed using the USPTO's electronic filing system EFS-Web, and is addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on this 7 day of February 2007.

Name: Dawn R. Shaw

Signature: Dawn R. Shaw